

Task 1: Creating a timeline

You should have three Photo Cards labelled:

- Community building and synagogue, Plauen, Germany
- History of the Jewish community in Plauen
- Industry and population in Plauen

1. Read through all the evidence you have about Plauen. Much of the information focuses on the time period 1870 – 1930.

2. Create a timeline for the period 1870 - 1933 that includes details about:

- The total population (this means everyone)
- Number of Jewish people in the city
- Building of the new synagogue
- Lace industry

If you do not have exact figures you may want to write in extra detail, for instance *'population goes down'*. You might also find it useful to include the dates for the beginning and end of the First World War.

3. Once you have completed your timeline look at it carefully and try and answer these questions:

- What do you notice about events after the First World War?





- From your own knowledge are there events that you think should be included in the timeline?

Task 1: Creating a timeline – cont'd

4. As historians we sometimes need to ask questions about the evidence we have and how we interpret it. What questions do you have:
 - About the city of Plauen,
 - The Jewish community there
 - Or about other events in Germany at the time?

Task 2: The synagogue

Your teacher should also have other images of this building to show you.

Look at the outside of the building:

- Can you see any evidence that this is a Jewish building used by the Jewish community?
- The building is divided into two colours – why do you think this is?
- Look at the design, is this similar or different to other religious buildings you have seen?
- If you were to cover up the Jewish symbol what might you think this building was used for?



On the inside of the building is there anything that stands out or that you wish to comment on?

The synagogue was built between 1928-30. What words would you use to describe the architecture? What reasons can you think of to explain why the Jewish community may have had this building designed and built?



Task 3: Re-evaluating the evidence

Add the new pieces of information to your timeline. You may want to add them in a different colour to make them stand out.

Again focus in on when the new synagogue was built. With your new information what conclusions can you draw about why the synagogue was built? You might want to consider about:

- Dr Isidore Goldberg
- The economic situation in Plauen and Germany in general
- The political situation
- The building of the synagogue

Task 4: Re-telling what you have learnt about Plauen

Using all of the evidence you have create a Prezi presentation or PowerPoint called 'Jewish life before the War in Plauen'. You should make use of the material you used in your last lesson about Jewish life in Germany. Try and use the information you have to explain to classmates:

- The small number of Jewish people in Germany before the Second World War.
- The development of Plauen as a lace city and the way it declined
- How the city growth and fall helped contribute to the antisemitic behaviour.

You may wish to find further photographs of Ursula Klipstein and her family as well as and the Dingfelder family on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

website www.ushmm.org



You may also want to find out what happened to Dr Isidore Goldberg, the former chairman of the Jewish community in Plauen by going to the Yad Vashem website and searching the 'Pages of Testimony' www.yadvashem.org

